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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 5 December 1952

SUBJECT Planned Aluminum and Magnesium Production

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1. Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Smelting and Ore Mining discussed production of aluminum and magnesium under the DDR Five-Year-Plan in a memorandum to Deputy Minister President Heinrich Rau dated 1 August 1952.

2. Selbmann stated that by 1955, the Plan aims at a total annual production of 50,000 tons of aluminum; of this, half is to be destined for the electro-chemical complex at Bitterfeld and the remainder for Lautawerk. Verbal agreements have been made with the Office for Research and Technology* about the proportion which is to be destined for cast products and that which is to be rolled.

3. The memorandum pointed out, however, that in order to be able to put the proper aluminum alloys at the disposal of industry, great amounts of magnesium were necessary. Without the magnesium, producers will not be in a position to supply the necessary amounts to such consumers as the ship construction and hydronalium industries.

4. The necessary amount of magnesium - both for aluminum alloy and magnesium casting - can be set at a tenth of the total amount of aluminum production. Selbmann stated that, since sufficient magnesium supplies are no longer available, necessary production should be planned in good time.

5. Taking into consideration the amounts of magnesium currently on hand and the amounts expected to be reclaimed from scrap, needs for the years 1952 through 1955 are as follows:

1952	-	1,700 tons	1954	-	4,200 tons
1953	-	3,100 tons	1955	-	5,400 tons

6. The supply of pure magnesium for 1952 is assured with the exception of about 150 tons necessary for blending (Verschneiden) with scrap. In 1953, however, there will be more difficulties, since the end of the magnesium scrap supply will be at hand and because larger amounts of the metal will be necessary for blending.

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7. Selbmann requested that Rau give close attention to the problems outlined above in order to avoid the dearth which is expected about the middle of 1953.
8. The Minister suggested that, with a little increase in production, if sufficient power were supplied, SAG Bitterfeld would be in the position to boost its magnesium production from 1,000 tons to 1,200 annually.

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Comment: The German original mentions the "Amt Für Forschung und Technik" not the "Zentralamt". The office is, however, presumed to be identical with ZAFT.)

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